



## NEWS FROM HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR CONGRESSMAN JAMES E. CLYBURN

May 17, 2006

Issue: Energy Independence

# Democratic Dispatch

### **ENERGIZING AMERICA: FARMERS FUELING AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE**

#### **Increase Production of American-made Biofuels**

- Doubles the percentage of renewable fuels sold in America in six years.
- Makes sure that biodiesel and cellulosic sources, such as switch grass, are a key part of that increase.
- Extends tax credit for ethanol and biodiesel through 2015 and increases tax benefits to small ethanol producers.

#### **Expand the Market for and Distribution of Biofuels**

- Increases the percentage of "flex-fuel" vehicles that run on ethanol or gasoline.
- In seven years, 75 percent of all cars made in America would be flex-fuel cars.
- Increases the number of gas stations offering ethanol (E-85) and biodiesel through new incentives and requirements.

#### **Research & Development to Improve Renewable Energy Use**

- Invests in biofuels research to make biofuel production more efficient, and environmentally sound.
- Spurs cutting-edge research to develop new processes for turning other farm products, such as switch-grass and woodchips, into biofuels.
- Fosters new vehicle efficient technologies through research and development.

#### **Encourage Local Domestic Ownership**

- Provides federal incentives to smaller ethanol and biofuel plants, so that independent, locally-owned facilities that produce biofuels can grow and thrive, improving our rural communities.

## America Must Become Energy Independent

House Democrats have unveiled an innovative plan that will end the "addiction" to foreign oil and create economic opportunities for rural Americans. **Energizing America** is a comprehensive approach to gaining America's energy independence within ten years.

This plan is home-grown and American owned. It severs the ties to foreign imports and puts American production and growth first. It provides a stark contrast to the Republican plan that I call the methadone treatment for oil dependency — replace the addiction to foreign oil with an addiction to foreign ethanol.

Democrats don't believe that tax credits should go to gluttonous oil companies nor should we eliminate tariffs on foreign produced ethanol. We should be putting American tax dollars into investing in American farmers to create a renewable source of biofuel right here at home.

This plan will improve our national security because we will no longer be de-

"This plan is home-grown and American owned. It severs the ties to foreign imports and puts American production and growth first. It provides a stark contrast to the Republican plan that I call the methadone treatment for oil dependency—replace the addiction to foreign oil with an addiction to foreign ethanol."

pendent on oil-rich countries that don't have America's best interest at heart. This plan will improve rural economies because it will invest in our farmers and small, locally-owned biofuel plants. This plan will improve our environment by effectively reducing dangerous greenhouse gas emissions.

**Energizing America** is an investment in America's future. America's Midwest will replace the Middle East as our source of fuel creating a stronger, safer, and more secure America.

## What Others are Saying about the Plan

"With many in our community earning \$7 an hour, with no public transportation and paying more than \$3 a gallon for fuel, this proposal to help small farmers fuel America's energy independence is desperately needed. We applaud Congressman Clyburn and the Rural Working Group for taking the leadership in exploring new and innovative ways of decreasing the nation's dependence on foreign sources of energy. We intend to work with the Congress in achieving ambitious, but necessary goals."

*President Clinton Bristow, Chair, Council of 1890 Presidents/ Chancellors of the nation's historically black universities (1890s)*

"Being an election year and \$3 gasoline will spur action. I think we'll get something done. It's the most comprehensive biofuels legislation we've yet seen."

*Tom Buis, President of the National Farmers Union*